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Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP80M01082A000700030026-8

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3 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Current Digest of Soviet Press Index Project

1. Several months ago representatives of the Current Digest of the Soviet Press approached elements of the Intelligence Community--principally INR--in order to solicit funds for a project to index the Soviet newspapers Pravda and Izvestiya. Some of this indexing was to have involved computer applications. The asking price for the three year project was \$215,000. General Graham as D/DCI/IC responded in effect that the idea had some merit but in its present form was too ambitious and costly. He proposed an IC Staff contribution of \$5,000 per year, contingent on substantial contributions from other elements of the Community.

2. Yesterday, at a meeting of interested parties at State, the Digest representatives presented, in outline form, a modified and less expensive proposal. The proposal would be to index only Pravda, and to begin this only in 1975 (i.e., not cover back issues). The cost of external support would be \$90,000 over the three year period.

3. Paul Cook and Abe Brumberg of INR indicated that State would support 1/3 of this \$90,000. ARPA earlier had promised another \$30,000 over the three year period. I reported I had obtained a verbal commitment from CIA/Central Reference Service that CIA would be willing to add \$5,000 or so to its annual subscription (of about \$9,500) for three years. With \$5,000 from IC Staff for each year of the three year period, the \$90,000 total would be reached. I said I thought that IC Staff contribution would be forthcoming.

4. I have since reaffirmed the verbal commitment from CRS. I am the contact point for the formal proposals to both CIA and the IC Staff, which should reach me in the next ten days. IC Staff's contribution would be transferred to CIA and the funds added to the CIA subscription price. I have checked with [redacted] -- IC Staff has \$80,000 left to spend on external research this year.

5. The representatives made it clear that if this indexing project were not funded, there would be no Soviet newspaper or journal indexed anywhere in the United States (or the Western world). To me this is the most persuasive argument in favor of Intelligence Community support.

[redacted]

~~Attachment: Informal revised CDSP index proposal~~

AT Distribution: Original [redacted] PRD Subj.

AT 1 - [redacted] 1 - PRD Chrono; 1 - WMH Chrono

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